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Application No. 10/721,358
Docket No.: 1020/0132PUS1

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A control element comprising:

a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is a part of a panel that is designed to work together with the control element;

an optical light guide formed from a single piece that includes two parts, the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot;

a light rotor that extends towards the optical light guide to a height necessary for light transport; and

a light source located below the light rotor,

wherein the optical light guide and the light rotor are formed as a single piece.

2. (Original) The control element according to claim 1, wherein arranged on the scale around the rotary knob of the control element are symbols, which are backlit in the night design and are easily recognizable in the daylight design by establishing appropriate contrast with their surroundings.

3. (Original) The control element according to claim 2, wherein the symbols are produced by a laser, injection-molding, or film technique.

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4. (Original) The control element according to claim 1, wherein the corona is illuminated in the night design as a luminous ring around the rotary knob and is not illuminated in the daylight design and thus very difficult or impossible to detect.

5. (Original) The control element according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of the scale and corona is regulated by light-scattering components in the optical light guide.

6. (Original) The control element according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of the scale and corona is regulated by an appropriate wall thickness in the symbol area.

7. (Original) The control element according to claim 1, wherein the brightness of the scale and corona is regulated by at least one light-diverting bevel provided on an underside of the optical light guide on a circumferential side.

8. (Original) The control element according to claim 1, wherein the optical light guide is fixed relative to the control element.

9. (Previously presented) The control element according to claim 1, wherein the optical light guide is adjusted in functional combination with the light rotor.

Claims 10-20 (Cancelled).

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21. (New) A control element comprising:

- a panel portion having an opening having a periphery and a width;
- a scale along the periphery of the opening, the scale including non-opaque portions through which light can pass;
- a rotary knob having an axis of rotation, a region of maximum width, and a sidewall, the width of the rotary knob at the region of maximum width being less than the width of the panel portion opening;
- an integral optical light guide comprising a cylindrical inner wall and an annular outer member surrounding the cylindrical inner wall and spaced therefrom by an annular slot, the cylindrical inner wall extending into a space defined by the panel portion opening and the region of maximum width, and the annular outer member underlying the scale; and
- a light-guiding rotor that conducts light from a light source to the optical light guide.

22. (New) The control element of claim 21 wherein the light-guiding rotor extends into but not through the optical light guide.

23. (New) The control element of claim 21 wherein the rotary knob region of maximum width is less than the inner diameter of the cylindrical inner wall.

24. (New) The control element of claim 21 wherein said cylindrical inner wall

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projects beyond said annular outer member in the direction of said axis of rotation.

25. (New) The control element of claim 21 wherein said light guiding rotor is coupled to said light guide.

26. (New) The control element of claim 21 wherein said region of maximum width extends into said panel portion opening.

27. (New) A control element having a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is a part of a panel that is designed to work together with the control element, the control element comprising:

an integrally formed first optical light guide having first and second parts separated by an annular slot, the slot being configured to receive a part of the panel;

a light source; and

a rotatable second light guide that transmits light from the light source into the first optical light guide.

28. (New) The control element of claim 27 wherein the rotatable second light guide extends into but not through the first optical light guide.